

AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 09/690,051

Filing Date: October 16, 2000

Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONTINUOUSLY SHUFFLING AND MONITORING CARDS

Page 16

Dkt: PA0476.ap.US

**CLEAN COPY OF ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION
REQUIRED BY 37 CFR 1.121**

AI In a preferred card-handling device of the present invention, the number of cards in the rack assembly is monitored at all times while the shuffler is in the dealing mode. The microprocessor monitors the cards fed into and out of the rack assembly, and provides a visual warning that the number or amount of cards in the rack assembly is below a critical (predetermined, preset) number or level. When such a card count warning is issued, the microprocessor stops delivering cards to the shoe. When the cards are fed back into the machine and the number of cards in the rack assembly rises to an acceptable (preset or predetermined) level, the microprocessor resumes unloading cards into the shoe. The number of cards is dependent upon the game being dealt and the number of players present or allowed. For example, in a multi-deck blackjack game using 208 cards (four decks), the minimum number of cards in the rack is approximately 178. At this point, a signal is sent to the visual display. When the number of cards drops to 158 (the preset number), the microprocessor will stop delivery of cards to the shoe. Limiting the number of cards outside the rack assembly maintains the integrity of the random shuffling process. Although a description of preferred embodiments has been presented, various changes including those mentioned above could be made without deviating from the spirit of the present invention. It is desired, therefore, that reference be made to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.

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